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# PREFACE

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## PREFACE

Our research in ecological anthropology in the Cameroon forests started in 1993. We initially planned to conduct research in Congo-Brazzaville and Democratic Republic of the Congo (former Zaire), but both countries were then suffering from extreme political unrest, which made the research almost impossible. We therefore shifted the research site to Cameroon, to the west of the Congo Basin, where people are living in a similar forest environment to that of both countries. Since then, we have been conducting the research on hunter-gatherers and shifting cultivators in the southeastern part of Cameroon. This supplementary issue, *Land Use, Livelihood, and Changing Relationships Between Man and Forests in Central Africa*, is the third publication on the research in this region to appear in the supplementary issue of *African Study Monographs*, following *Man and Nature in Central African Forests* (1998) and *Ecology and Change in Hunter-Gatherer Societies in the Western Congo Basin* (2006).

Our research focus has been shifting during the last two decades from the static and ecological aspects of the relationships between man and the forests to the dynamic and changing aspects of the relationships. We are now trying to link the ecological understandings of man and forest relationships with contemporary issues, such as those related to land rights, development programs and conservation movements, all of which are affecting the life of peoples in the research areas. While there are some papers, such as those by Jerome Lewis, Olivier Njounan Tegomo et al., Hirokazu Yasuoka et al. and Daiji Kimura et al., that directly address these issues, other papers also have implications for these issues, explicitly or implicitly. This is the reason for putting the phrase *Changing Relationships Between Man and Forests* in the title of this collection of papers.

The field studies on which the papers in this volume are based have been supported in part by the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on *Customary Rights and Co-existence of Multi-ethnic Groups in African Tropical Forests* (No. 21241057) headed by Mitsuo Ichikawa, and *Past, Present and Future of Protein Acquisition in African Tropical Rain Forest* (No. 22241057) headed by Daiji Kimura. The publication of this volume is also financed by these grants. The two research projects are still underway, and this is an interim report of the results.

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